

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 PC-01 IGA-01 OMB-01

EB-07 MC-02 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /111 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:PDMOLINEAUX:YW

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

EA/K - MR. MISCH

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P R 151500Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218880

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, YE, US, UN, MASS

SUBJECT: US ASSISTANCE TO YAR, AND SOUTH KOREA-YAR  
RELATIONS

REF: SEOUL 6874

1. YOU MAY ADVISE ROK FOREIGN MINISTRY ON STATUS OF  
US-YAR RELATIONS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A) US AND YAR ENJOY EXCELLENT AND GROWING RELATIONS.  
USG HAS AID PROGRAM IN YAR PRESENTLY AT LEVEL OF FIVE TO  
TEN MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR, CONCENTRATED IN WATER  
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, AND AGRICULTURE. IN ADDITION,  
SOME THIRTY US PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ARE ACTIVE IN YAR.  
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DOMESTIC POLITICAL COURSE OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN SANA

BEST DESCRIBED AS MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD, BASED ON MODERATE SUPPORT FROM BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT OF POLITICAL SPECTRUM. YAR IS CLEARLY ALIGNED WITH MODERATE ARAB STATES, PARTICULARLY WITH SAUDI ARABIA. INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATION IS THIRD-WORLD BUT GENERALLY PRO-WESTERN. NEVERTHELESS, YAR IS A DESPERATELY POOR COUNTRY (PER CAPITA GNP APPROXIMATELY \$100 PER YEAR), WHICH DICTATES NON-IDEOLOGICAL APPROACH TO BILATERAL RELATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

FOR PURELY PRAGMATIC ECONOMIC REASONS, YAR TENDS TO DEFER TO POLITICAL PRESSURES OF AID DONORS. FOR THIS REASON, YAR HAS TENDED - AT LEAST UNTIL RECENTLY - TO DEFER TO PRC PRESSURES ON QUESTIONS OF RELATIONS WITH AND UN REPRESENTATION OF DIVIDED EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING VIETNAM, KOREA, AND CAMBODIA.

B) SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT (SAG), YARG, AND USG ARE GENERALLY AGREED ON NEED TO SUBSTANTIALLY MODERNIZE AND IMPROVE YAR ARMED FORCES. WE ARE ALSO AGREED THAT SAG SHOULD BE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF FINANCING FOR THIS EFFORT. USG HAS EXPRESSED READINESS TO SELL RPT SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING TO YAR, TO BE FINANCED BY SAG. WE BELIEVE YAR MILITARY MODERNIZATION SHOULD PUT FIRST EMPHASIS ON TRAINING AND PROVISION OF MODERN INFANTRY WEAPONS TO SEVERAL YEMENI ARMY BRIGADES. DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE AIR FORCE AND NAVY SHOULD FOLLOW AT LATER STAGE. SAUDIS ARE EXPECTED MAKE SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS ON OCCASION OF YEMENI MILITARY MISSION TO RIYADH, TO BE HEADED BY YAR CHIEF OF STAFF LT. COL. AL-GHASHMI, NOW SCHEDULED FOR EARLY OCTOBER.

C) CONTINUED SHIFT OF YARG TO PRO-WESTERN CAMP UNMISTAKABLE. YARG APPEARS PREPARED TO EXPEL REMAINING SOVIET ADVISORS ONCE SAUDI-US COMMITMENT TO MILITARY MODERNIZATION IS ASSURED. HOWEVER, WE KNOW OF NO YAR DESIRE REDUCE OR ELIMINATE PRC ECONOMIC AID. CHINESE HAVE GENERALLY AVOIDED DABBING IN YEMENI POLITICS, AND THEIR AID PROGRAM HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES POPULAR WITH YARG AND YAR POPULATION.

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D) BASIC RECEPTIVITY OF YARG TO IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH ROK SEEMS CLEAR, HOWEVER ROK SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT YARG CANNOT - FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS - MOVE PRECIPITOUSLY. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, USG WILL CONTINUE URGE YARG IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ROK. USG SUGGESTS ROK CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS, BOTH TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH YAR, AND TO STRENGTHEN YAR COMMITMENT TO FRIENDLY RESOLUTIONS ON KOREA IN UN.

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